Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of determining the invasivity of malignant disorders comprising measuring the expression of at least one gene selected from the group consisting of AXL, GAS, MMP14, ADAM12, ADAM17, MT3MMP, FGF2, FGF5, FYN, LYN, DDR2, TIMP1, HBEGF, SGF, S6KII, MAP4K4, SIRP.alpha., Annexin 2, Stat 5b and EDG2 wherein a high expression correlates with a high invasivity.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, comprising measuring the expression of at least two genes selected from said group.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim claim 1, wherein the malignant disorder is cancer, particularly selected from breast cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, lung cancer, colon cancer, glioblastomas and other cancers.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the malignant disorder is cancer, particularly selected from breast cancer, prostate cancer, kidney cancer, lung cancer, colon cancer, glioblastomas and other cancers.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the cancer is glioblastomas.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the expression is determined on the mRNA level.

7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 6, wherein the expression is determined on a nucleic acid array.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the expression is determined on the protein level.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the expression is determined by an immunoassay.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the invasivity of cancer cells in a subject in need thereof comprising inhibiting AXL gene expression, AXL protein activity, interaction between AXL protein and its ligands, or a combination thereof, wherein said inhibition step comprises administering to the subject an inhibitor of the AXL gene, AXL ligand gene, AXL protein and/or AXL protein ligand in an amount which is effective for reducing the invasivity of cancer cells, and wherein said cancer cells are selected from the group consisting of breast cancer cells, prostate cancer cells, kidney cancer cells, glioblastoma cells or cancer cells of epithelial origin.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the AXL protein ligand is GAS6.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 comprising inhibiting the receptor tyrosine kinase activity of the AXL protein.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10 comprising inhibiting the expression of the AXL gene.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 comprising inhibiting the interaction between the AXL protein and its ligands.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the cancer cells are glioblastoma cells.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the subject is a mammal.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the AXL protein inhibitor and the AXL protein ligand inhibitor is an antibody directed against the

AXL protein.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is an antisense nucleic acid, a ribozyme or an RNA interference molecule directed against the AXL gene or a transcript thereof.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein the inhibitor is a dominant-negative mutant of the AXL gene.

22. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active agent an inhibitor of the AXL gene, AXL ligand gene, AXL protein and/or AXL protein ligand together with pharmacologically active diluents, carriers and/or adjuvants.

23. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein the inhibitor is an antibody directed against the AXL protein.

24. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein the inhibitor is an antisense nucleic acid, a ribozyme or an RNA interference molecule directed against the AXL gene or a transcript thereof.

25. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22, wherein the inhibitor is a dominant-negative mutant of the AXL gene.

26. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22 for reducing the invasivity of malignant disorders.

27. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22 for reducing the metastasis formation in malignant disorders.

28. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 26, wherein the malignant disorder is glioblastomas.

29. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 22 comprising at least one further active agent.

30. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 29, wherein the further active agent is a cytotoxic or cytostatic agent.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying and/or characterizing an inhibitor of the invasivity of malignant disorders comprising determining, if a test compound is capable of inhibiting the AXL gene, AXL ligand gene, AXL protein and/or AXL protein ligand.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31 comprising determining, if a test compound is capable of binding to the AXL protein and/or reducing the AXL gene expression.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein a cell-based assay system is used.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein a cell-free assay system is used.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the subject is a human.

36. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein said inhibitor of the AXL protein and/or AXL protein ligand is selected from the group consisting of Fab, Fab', or Fab2 fragments, and scFV fragments.